

REMARKS

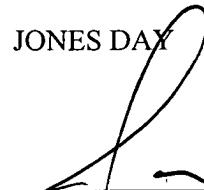
This Amendment responds to the office action mailed on February 14, 2006. In the office action claims 1-9 and 13-16 are rejected. Claims 10-12, 17 and 18 are objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims, but are allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 11-13 and 18 are amended and claims 10 and 17 are cancelled.

The Examiner is thanked for the identification of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 17 and claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 10. Independent claims 1 and 6 are thus in condition for allowance. Claims 2-5, 7-9, 11-16 and 18 each ultimately depend from claim 1 or 6, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

The patent owner respectfully disagrees with the rejection of claims 1-9 and 13-16, and reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a continuation application.

For the above reasons, the patent owner submits that claims 1-9, 11-16 and 18 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to enter this Amendment and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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